



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Principals, Superintendents, Counselors, & Teachers

FROM: Amanda Snobarger, School Counseling Consultant

DATE: December 7, 2010

SUBJECT: No Excuses University Pilot Project

Indiana elementary and middle school teams are invited to apply for participation in a one year pilot of the **No Excuses University** initiative in Indiana. No Excuses University (NEU) encompasses a variety of resources, strategies, and methods that promote college awareness beginning at the elementary school level. The NEU message is that every student has the ability to achieve impressive academic success and that students, staff, and parents can work collaboratively to create a school climate that promotes college readiness.

Read more about No Excuses University at <http://turnaroundschools.com/neu-network/>.

If selected to participate in this pilot program, team members will attend a one-day workshop and have the option of applying to be a part of the No Excuses University Network. NEU is a network of K-8 schools across the country that aggressively promotes college readiness for every student.

Up to 20 elementary/middle school teams of 5 will be selected to participate in the Indiana pilot. Schools selected for the pilot will form a four-five person team with at least one school counselor and administrator and two classroom teachers, (preference given to teams of 5). Team members will be required to:

- Attend a one-day training in Indianapolis on March 15, 2010,
- Implement the No Excuses University pilot at the school during the 2010-11 school year,
- Collect and compile basic data on students participating in the program,
- Agree to present and/or answer questions from other schools about the initiative, and
- Submit a short summary report at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

For those selected schools, the cost of the training and all training materials will be covered by the grant. More details are on the Assurances page of the No Excuses University Pilot Project application found here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/sc.htm>. Damen Lopez, founder of TurnAround Schools and No Excuses University and former Principal at Los Peñasquitos Elementary School in San Diego, California, will be providing the training to the selected teams on March 15, 2010.

Schools not selected for the pilot, can still register to attend the workshop but the registration costs would not be covered by grant funds. Register for the conference at: www.TurnAroundSchools.com.

Who Should Apply:	Public and non-public, accredited schools with students in grades K-8
Teams:	Preference will be given to schools with a team of 5 (minimum 4, maximum 5) people including at least one school counselor and administrator and 2 teachers (representing various grade levels).
Dates:	Teams must be able to attend the training session on March 15, 2010 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Location:	Details about the meeting site, materials to bring and accommodations (if applicable) will be provided to accepted school teams.
Trainers:	Damen Lopez, Founder of No Excuses University and former principal at Los Peñasquitos Elementary School in San Diego, California: http://turnaroundschools.com/on-site-training/
Cost:	Training, materials, lunch, and Damen Lopez's recently authored book, "No Excuses University" will be provided to selected school teams at no cost. Schools will be expected to cover transportation and lodging costs (if required) for training.
School Selection Criteria:	Schools will be selected from those submitting complete applications (Part II responses on the application will be utilized for the selection process) with preference given to those with five team members, on a first-come, first served basis. Consideration will be given to building level, geographic location, and school size.
Application Deadline:	January 8, 2010

If you have questions about this project, please contact Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.in.gov 317-232-0510. Please note that during the week of January 4-8 Amanda will be out of the office. During this time you can contact Susan Tharp at SusanT@learnmore.org or 317-464-4400 x42.

This opportunity is supported by the efforts of:

